

What is claimed is:

1. A method for recovering carpet comprising polymeric fibers, which method comprises:
 - 5 a) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
 - b) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
 - c) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time from the end of the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet;
 - 10 d) collecting the carpet;
 - e) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type; and
 - f) converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming an
 - 15 article from the recovered polymer composition.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming polymeric fibers from the recovered polymer composition.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming polymeric fibers from the recovered polymer composition and then forming the polymeric fibers into a carpet.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein step of converting the polymeric fibers into
 - 25 a recovered polymer composition comprises depolymerizing at least one type of polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein step of converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition comprises depolymerizing at least one type

of polymeric fiber into its monomeric components and then repolymerizing the monomeric components to form the recovered polymer composition.

5 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming an article from the recovered polymer composition.

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition.

10 9. The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition and then forming the fibers into a carpet.

15 10. The method of claim 1 wherein step f) comprises depolymerizing a nylon polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein step f) comprises depolymerizing a nylon 6 polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.

20 12. The method of claim 1 wherein step a) is conducted via a global computer network.

25 13. The method of claim 1 wherein step c) is conducted using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step after step c) of providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the preliminary step before step
a) of installing a carpet at a consumer location.
16. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the consumer with an
5 incentive to replace the carpet.
17. A method for recovering carpet comprising polymeric fibers, which
method comprises:
a) installing a carpet at a consumer location;
10 b) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information
comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
c) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
d) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time of the end of
the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet;
15 e) collecting the carpet;
f) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type;
g) depolymerizing the polymeric fibers into their monomeric components;
h) repolymerizing the monomeric components to form a recovered polymer
composition, and
20 i) forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition, and then forming
the fibers into a carpet.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein the polymeric fibers comprise at least one
nylon.
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19. The method of claim 17 further comprising providing the consumer with
an incentive to replace the carpet.
20. The method of claim 17 further comprising providing the consumer with a
30 replacement carpet.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein step b) is conducted via a global computer network.

5 22. The method of claim 17 wherein step d) is conducted using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network.

10 23. A method for recovering carpet comprising nylon polymeric fibers, which method comprises:

- a) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
- b) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
- c) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time from the end of
- 15 the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network;
- d) collecting the carpet;
- e) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type including
- 20 nylon polymeric fibers;
- f) depolymerizing at least one type of nylon polymeric fiber into its monomeric components;
- g) repolymerizing the monomeric components to form a recovered polymer composition, and
- 25 h) forming nylon fibers from the recovered polymer composition, and then forming the fibers into a carpet.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the nylon polymeric fibers comprises nylon 6.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein step a) is conducted via a global computer network.

5 26. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step after step c) of providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

27. The method of claim 23 further comprising the preliminary step before step a) of installing a carpet at a consumer location.

10 28. The method of claim 23 further comprising providing the consumer with an incentive to replace the carpet.